

Protection in Danger

Monthly News Brief

January
2021

Safety, security and access incidents in refugee and IDP settings

Insecurity Insight publishes data on incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees. **Access the data on [HDX](#).**

Past editions: [December 2020](#); [November 2020](#); [October 2020](#)

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Africa

Burkina Faso

07 January 2021: In Koumbri department, Yatenga province, a teacher was abducted by suspected volunteer fighters (VDP) inside an IDP camp. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Democratic Republic of Congo

24 January 2021: In Kashuga village, Masisi territory, North Kivu province, an IDP camp was attacked for several hours by armed Nyatura militiamen. Two people were killed, and eight injured with machetes. Money and livestock was also stolen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Ethiopia

Around 05 January 2021: In Tigray region, satellite images show suspected attacks on two refugee camps in the north of Tigray. The images show the aftermath of scorched earth-style attacks that targeted a World Food Programme storage site, a school, health care facilities and refugee shelters. At least 504 structures were extensively damaged by fire in Shimelba camp. **Source:** [VICE](#)

Nigeria

02 January 2021: Near Matari village, Maiduguri LGA, Borno state, Boko Haram militants stormed the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road in military uniforms and mounted a roadblock with three Hilux vans and motorcycles. The militants abducted between 20 and 50 motorists and passengers, including a Senior Protection Assistant of the UNHCR and the Secretary General of the National Union of Yobe State Students. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹, [Eons Intelligence](#), [Nkiruka Nistroran](#), [Sahel Standard I](#) and [Sahel Standard II](#)

28 January 2021: In Sulemanti, Magumeri LGA, Borno state, a fire that broke out in a community sheltering mainly IDPs destroyed properties, food items and makeshift homes. **Source:** [HumAngle](#)

South Sudan

Around 20 January 2021: In Lainya county, Central Equatoria state, three IDPs working on farmland were reportedly attacked by Mundaria pastoralists. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Sudan

07 January 2021: Around 2km east of Rwanda IDP camp, Tawilla locality, North Darfur state, a 16-year-old female IDP was gang raped by militiamen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

12 January 2021: In Misterei town, Beida locality, West Darfur state, a female IDP was shot dead by gunmen near a water well. **Source:** [Radio Dabanga](#)

15-17 January 2021: Near Geneina city, West Darfur state, clashes between the Massalit and Rizeigat tribes in the two Krinding IDP camps broke out after a Massalit tribesman fatally stabbed a member of the Rizeigat. At least 160 deaths were reported, including children and new-borns, and over 200 people were left wounded. At least 50,000 people have been displaced. **Sources:** [ABC](#), [Perth Now](#), [Radio Dabanga I](#) and [Radio Dabanga II](#)

Around 23 January 2021: At Adila Refugee camp, East Darfur state, the camp was attacked and torched by a militia comprising relatives of a man who had been killed in a fight with a South Sudanese refugee. Two South Sudanese refugees were killed and an unspecified number of refugees fled to Abu Jabra camp as a result. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Uganda

04 January 2021: In Omugo camp, Arua district, Northern region, a 30-year-old South Sudanese woman was killed by 13 Ugandan nationals living within the camp who stormed her house and accused her of poisoning a woman. The perpetrators were arrested by the Ugandan police in Terego district. **Source:** [Eye Radio](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

As reported on 31 December 2020: On Bhasan Char island, Hatiya upazila, Noakhali district, Chittagong division, the Government of Bangladesh continued to deny entry for the UNHCR to perform a technical and protection assessment of the recently-formed silt island to determine its habitability for refugees. The government has relocated nearly 3,500 Rohingya refugees there so far, with the intention to ultimately relocate up to 100,000 in total. Reports suggest some refugees are being forcibly relocated to the island against their will. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [RFA](#)

14 January 2021: In Teknaf sub-district, Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, a fire that UNICEF has described as arson destroyed four UNICEF learning centres for Rohingya children at the Nayapara Refugee Camp, along with 552 homes and 150 shops, and forcing around 3,500 people to flee. Whilst EU-ECHO stated that a faulty cooking gas cylinder may have ignited the blaze, one refugee alleged that a gang of thieves lit her shelter on fire after she refused to let her son join in their activities. **Sources:** [Globe](#) and , [ECHO](#), [RFA](#) and [The New Arab](#)

Kazakhstan

21 January 2021: In Almaty city, a Xinjiang-born female ethnic Kazakh refugee and activist engaged with exposing China's internment camps for Turkic minorities was attacked and injured by unknown individuals near her residence. The victim was hospitalized. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

As reported on 16 January 2021: Near Velika Kladusa town and municipality, Una-Sana canton, Bosnian authorities have failed to assist hundreds of migrants sheltering in makeshift tents on frozen ground and abandoned houses, without heating or any other facilities. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Canary Islands

05 January 2021: In Tenerife island, Santa Cruz de Tenerife province, four asylum-seekers died en route to the Canary Islands from the coast of Africa. They were found dead on arrival when a boat carrying 47 asylum-seekers landed on El Cabezo beach. **Source:** [Risk Map](#)

Cyprus

14 December 2020: Cypriot authorities reportedly removed the NGO Kisa for Migrants from a register of associations and foundations on the alleged grounds that it did not submit audited accounts and did not convene a general assembly within the timeframe set by the Interior Ministry, effectively rendering it unlawful. **Source:** [Cyprus Mail](#)

12 January 2021: In Nicosia city, 25 asylum seekers were injured during a brawl between nationals from Syria and several African countries in an overcrowded migrant reception camp. Windowpanes, fencing, beds and other equipment were damaged during the brawl. **Source:** [ABC News](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

27 January 2021: In Dahieh suburb, Beirut, the extension of a strict COVID-19 lockdown imposed by the Lebanese Government until February 08 has left thousands of Syrian refugees without sufficient food and basic supplies to survive. **Source:** [NBC](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territories

03 January 2021: At Mukhayyam al Fawwar refugee camp, Hebron, West Bank, Israeli military forces stormed the camp and fired tear gas at Palestinian civilians' houses. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

19 January 2021: In Gaza Strip, shrapnel from an artillery shell fired by an Israeli tank hit a house at the Maghazi Refugee Camp, injuring a Palestinian man in the leg. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

03 January 2021: At Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakah governorate, the body of a female teenager was found by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) internal security force in section three of the camp with signs of gunshot wounds. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

05 January 2021: At Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakah governorate, the bodies of three Iraqi IDPs were found in section two bearing signs of gunshot wounds. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

06 January 2021: At Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakah governorate, a Syrian IDP was killed in section 5 of the camp by unidentified perpetrators using a bladed weapon for allegedly collaborating with SDF. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Around 07 January 2021: At Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakah governorate, the body of an Iraqi refugee woman was found in section three of the camp with gunshot wounds to the head. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

07 January 2021: At Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakah governorate, the body of a male Syrian IDP was found inside a tent in Section Five. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

08 January 2021: At Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakah governorate, the head of SDF and DFNS' Syrian Council, who is responsible for the administration of the affairs of refugees, as well as his son, were shot dead by suspected IS cells in the 4th section of the camp. The man's other son was also injured in the attack. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Around 16 January 2021: At Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakah governorate, the decapitated body of an Iraqi refugee was found in the camp by Asayish forces. **Sources:** [North Press Agency](#) and [SOHR](#)

22 January 2021: At Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakah governorate, a woman was shot dead by SDF while trying to escape from the camp. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

24 January 2021: At Al Manhal camp, Idlib governorate, a male Syrian IDP was found murdered in his tent. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

27 January 2021: At Al-Hol camp, Al-Hasakah governorate, an Iraqi refugee was shot and wounded by gunmen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Yemen

19 January 2021: In Abidah, Marib district, an IDP camp came under fire from light weapons, killing a woman and a child and injuring another two civilians. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

The Americas

Guatemala

08 January 2021: A spokesperson for the Armed Forces of Guatemala announced that up to 4,000 soldiers would be deployed to reinforce Guatemalan borders to prevent new waves of US-bound migrants from advancing. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

Mexico

As reported on 12 January 2021: As migrants traverse Mexico irregularly in the hope of entering the US, local criminal actors continue to subject them to robbery, extortion, assault and rape. Transnational criminal organisations, in which Mexican authorities and officials are often complicit, also run migrant kidnapping rings and demand ransom from family members in the US. **Source:** [InSight Crime](#)

This Monthly News Brief comprises reported threats and incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees. It is part of the Protection in Danger project by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases.

The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events of threats and incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 05 February 2021.